



The Arlington Advocate

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Tax issue heard on Beacon Hill

By Patrick McGee
ADVOCATE STAFF

BOSTON — Arlington officials appeared before a state legislative committee on Tuesday to testify in favor of exempting the Medical Center at Symmes from property taxes, but two Town Meeting members were also there, testifying that that hospital should be asked to pay its fair share.

Charles Lyons, chairman of the Board of Selectmen and a close follower of the buyout of Symmes by Advantage Health 14 months ago, testified in favor of the home-rule petition that exempts Symmes from property taxes in exchange for acute care.

Town Counsel John Maher also testified in favor of the home rule bill that passed Town Meeting 122 to 49 in May.

Town Meeting members Bruce Wheitley and Freeland Abbott urged the joint committee of senators and representatives not to exempt Symmes from property taxes.

Jim Marzilli, D-Arlington, is a member of the taxation committee. He has not said whether or not he supports the home-rule petition, but has hinted in the past that he does not want to see the institution become tax exempt.

Marzilli was noncommittal after hearing testimony.

"I think the general consensus on the taxation committee is Symmes Hospital has not yet proved that they will keep jobs in Arlington for the tax break, nor has anyone offered any reason why the Commonwealth should embark on this entirely new direction of tax policy," Marzilli said, adding that he needs more information before he decides how he will vote on the issue.

"I want to see the answers to these questions. There was not a representative from Symmes Hospital. Frankly, I'm not convinced that shifting \$50,000 onto the backs of other taxpayers is going to convince them to stay," he said.

Lyons and Marzilli, widely seen as political rivals, have crossed

SYMMES, see page 6A.

RECYCLING ROUTE

NEXT WEEK

NEWS/OPTION

ENVIRONMENT: Top Clinton Administration officials attended U.S. Rep Edward Markey's environmental conference. See page 4A for the story.

SPORTS

HOCKEY: The Arlington High won twice and Arlington Catholic once in hockey action this week.

RECORD SETTER: Basketball star Tara Clark set an all-time scoring record at Arlington Catholic during the annual Basketball Classic this weekend. For complete coverage of basketball and other local sports, turn to page 1B.

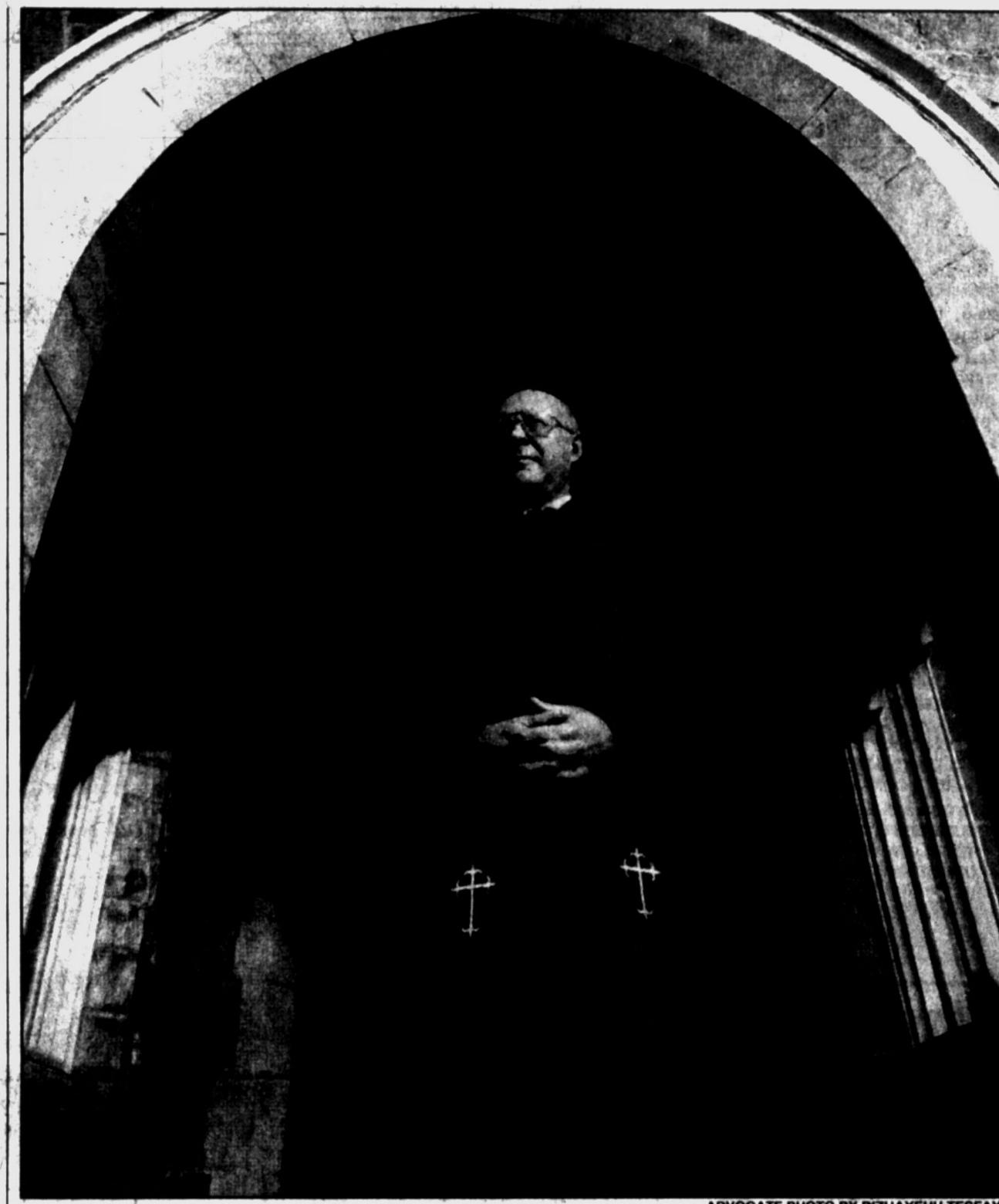
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SPECIAL SECTION

Wedding Traditions

Special supplement on making your wedding unique. Inside today's paper.



Recently retired, the Rev. Paul L. Jackson stands in front of the First Baptist Church in Arlington.

ADVOCATE PHOTO BY BIZUAYEHU TESFAYE

A Man of Peace

Retired First Baptist pastor reflects on theology

By Patrick McGee
ADVOCATE STAFF

In his 13 years as pastor, the Rev. Paul Jackson turned the First Baptist Church into one of the town's pillars of tolerance, as well-founded and as sturdy as the stone church itself.

With members of the congregation saying his message of acceptance was fully conveyed and adopted into their lives, Jackson has retired at age 61.

His belief in tolerance and acceptance seems to permeate all aspects of his life. It comes up in most topics of his conversation; from interpretation of the Bible to the accomplishments of Martin Luther King Jr., from gay students' rights to the character of his congregation.

Jackson said he finds his theological roots in tolerance in the Baptist denomination and in the teachings and life of Jesus Christ.

"Christ accepted all people and he had trouble with some of the Pharisees because they didn't ... If we want to see what God is like, we look at Christ and here we find someone who is very loving and accepting," Jackson said.

He said the very sustenance of being a Baptist is to

respect others' views. The religion, he said, encourages people to derive their own meaning from the Bible as suggested in the Gospel of St. John. Baptists subscribe to "social freedom" a belief that "no body can impose their views on another person ... each person has to develop their own creed."

"We have to be very accepting and learn from others because none of us have a quota on the truth," he said explaining that unlike other Christian denominations, Baptists are baptized as adults when they make the personal decision to accept Christ.

He said his favorite passage of the Bible, Psalm 46, also speaks of tolerance and love of others. He said it urges acceptance of all when it refers to "the God of Jacob," a deceptive character in the Book of Genesis.

"Jacob was not a very nice person so it says God is with people who turn to God ... All you have to do is be willing to let God work in your life," he said.

He said the work of Martin Luther King Jr., a fellow Baptist, is not a separate, modern development of the Christian denomination but an embodiment of its tolerant views.

"Martin Luther King really helped to exemplify the kind of things I'm talking about," Jackson said.

RETIREMENT, see page 6A.

Outage hits Center

Business owners have electrical concerns

By Tom Rose
ADVOCATE STAFF

A blackout in Arlington Center forced more than a dozen stores to close Friday, sparking concerns among business owners that the area's electrical infrastructure is outdated.

Priscilla Korell, a Boston Edison community relations official, said approximately 500 customers were taken out of service late Jan. 18, after a field crew discovered a damaged cable underground in the vicinity of Broadway and Franklin Street.

Power was out for 14 hours for most customers, but up to 16 hours for others. Many businesses on Broadway, Medford Street and Massachusetts Avenue closed Friday, with hand-lettered signs posted on store doors explaining the reason.

Among the stores closed were Gail Ann Coffee Shop, Starbucks, Royal Discount Books, and Papa

Gino's.

David Gruber, general manager of the Arlington Food Coop, estimated the store lost \$1,000 in sales and about \$400 in food, while spending another \$400 for dry ice.

"I'm going to make a claim against Edison," he said. "The only problem is they get to decide the claim."

Gruber said if he had been told the correct information on how long the outage would last, he would have rented a generator and been able to keep the store open. Instead, since he was told Thursday night that power would be restored by 9 a.m. Friday, he made no plans for a generator.

"They were very happy to give me answers, but it was the wrong information," he said.

Tom Rawson, whose software company is on Medford Street, closed his office for half of Friday because his computers were down. He and several other busi-

OUTAGE, see page 6A.

NEW ACT



From right, Sinead Kiely and Garrett McKenna rehearse their parts for an upcoming Arlington Childrens' Theater play. ACT has been accepted into the Massachusetts High School Drama Guild. See page 6B for details.

Stop & Shop land issue is dead for now

Vote delayed indefinitely

By Liz Buchanan
SPECIAL TO THE ADVOCATE

The School Committee closed another chapter of the long Stop & Shop saga Tuesday night, voting to take no action at present on the school land the store had sought to purchase.

The committee's 4-2 vote came in the wake of the discovery of toxic chromium contamination in the soil on the 1.37-acre site. Town officials Tuesday made a required disclosure to the state on the contamination problem, another step in the long process of studying and then addressing the situation.

"We are seeking to engage the Department of Environmental Protection as quickly as possible," Town Counsel John Maher told the committee. "It is a lengthy process by definition."

Planning and Community Development Director Alan McClenen Jr. said the first phase of the process, a formal study of the site, is likely to take about one year. The second phase, remediation, could take up to five years.

Both Maher and McClenen told School Committee members it would be impossible at this point to give more specific estimates of the time needed to resolve the issue or the cost involved. Maher noted that legal issues regarding financial responsibility for the

contamination needs to be settled, also a time-consuming process.

Superintendent of Schools Kathleen Donovan advised the committee that it would be unwise to take a position on declaring the land surplus until the clean-up costs and legal issues are resolved.

Donovan said she had discussed the matter with Stop & Shop officials, who said the company was unwilling to purchase the land and also be responsible for clean-up costs.

Stop & Shop had earlier offered to purchase the land for \$4 million, with an additional promise of \$1 million in athletic facility improvements at Arlington High School. The School Committee had planned to vote in December on whether or not to declare the land surplus and available for sale.

Committee member Janice Bakey made the motion to take no further action on Stop & Shop's proposal, "unless and until all questions dealing with environmental quality and pecuniary liabilities . . . have been thoroughly investigated and addressed."

Committee members Barbara Goodman, Martin Thrope and Chairman Michael Healy supported Bakey's motion, while Carolyn Simmons and David McKenna op-

LAND, see page 7A.

Block plan pushed for redevelopment

By Robin Robinson
SPECIAL TO THE ADVOCATE

Town planners decided Monday to take a block-by-block approach to implementing recommendations made in the Arlington Business Community Study.

At the Redevelopment Board meeting with the Community Advisory Committee, Chairman Ed Tsoi said he will ask Town Meeting for \$300,000 to use on three "showcase" blocks.

Tsoi suggested the town be divided into three zones — East, Center and Heights — with a committee for each zone.

"That's how you take a huge problem and make it bite-sized. Each committee can pick one block in their section, preferably

one where something is about to happen, like the Garron block in the center," Tsoi said, referring to the block where The Chateau restaurant is moving into the old Garron's Restaurant space. "Where the engine is already working."

Vision 2020 member Jane Howard asked Tsoi where he came up with the \$100,000 figure.

"What figure would you suggest?" he asked back.

"I don't know what kind of figure we need, but I can't imagine Town Meeting granting \$300,000 right now," she said.

"Just ask for it," Tsoi answered. "Since I enjoy the hunt, I'll go after it. Why shouldn't public funds be used? If the whole town doesn't get

ABC STUDY, see page 5A.

INSIDE ARLINGTON

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Human rights group has one opening

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Town report ties for first place in state

Awards Reception on Saturday, Jan. 20, at the MMA Annual Meeting. The town tied for first place in Category I, which includes towns with populations of 12,500 or more.

"Town reports provide residents with significant information and contribute to a greater understanding and appreciation of their local government," said Geoffrey Beckwith, MMA executive director. "Arlington is being recognized for the very high quality of its work on this valuable publication."

The contest, which awards towns in three population categories, recognizes layout and design, quantity and depth of information, organization, originality, and overall usefulness of the report.

The MMA is a private, nonprofit, nonpartisan association of cities and towns.

TOWN NEWS, see page 3A.



ADVOCATE PHOTO BY BIZUAYEHU TESFAYE

Assistant Town Manager John Dunlap, Deputy Town Manager Nancy Galkowski and Town Manager Donald Marquis show the Annual Report and MAA Certificate of Excellence. The report is put together entirely by the town manager's office.

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The Arlington Advocate

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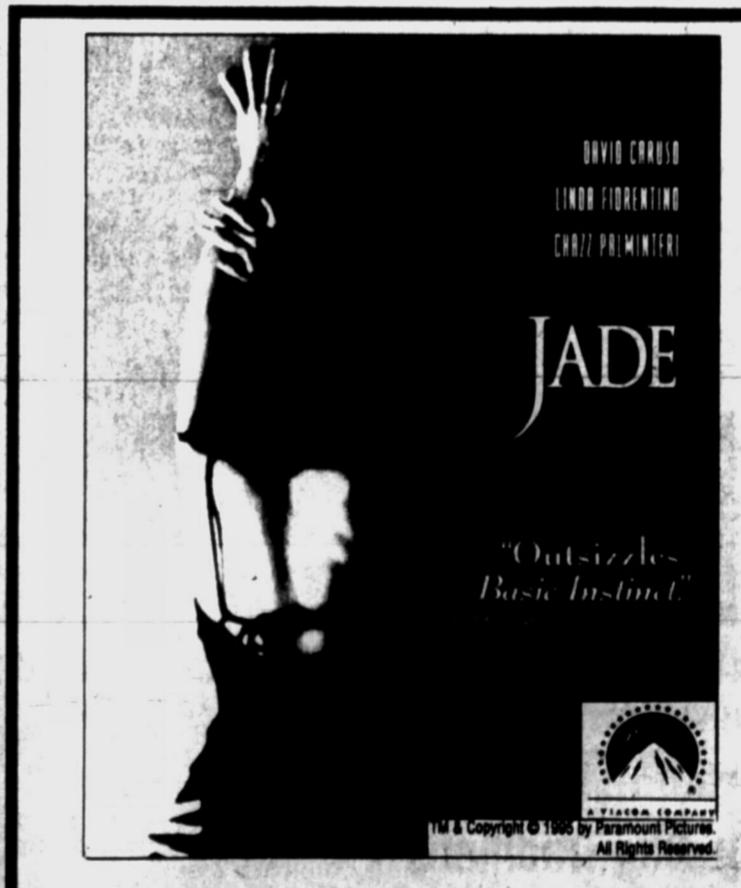
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191 Lowell St, \$207,000, 12/22/95.
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 241 Worthen Rd East, \$344,000, 12/21/95.
 David A Towers To Timothy P Enright.

this town together and he did it with compassion, he did it with wit," Lyons said.

Peg Spengler, a former member of the Board of Selectmen and current member of the Redevelopment Board also remembered O'Neill's service and humanity. "He's just one of the outstanding public servants we have ever had in Arlington," Spengler said. "He had a wonderful sense of humor and he was able to see through so many charades. I think he's one person we will miss for ever and ever."

"Bob would not just react to circumstances of the time, but would look to make things change," said Allan Tosti, the main speaker for the ceremony in O'Neill's honor. He spoke at a podium in front of a new plaque officially calling the room the "Robert F. O'Neill Memorial Meeting Room."

"I still miss him," Tosti said, getting a little choked up at the end of his speech.

"He was dishonest on the golf course," joked Selectmen chairman Charles Lyons, but added,

"He was really a gentleman from sole to crown."

Lyons also noted the contributions O'Neill made as a public official.

"During tax limitation, he kept

the town together and he did it with compassion, he did it with wit," Lyons said.

In 1992 she worked as a legislative aide for state sen. Thomas Birmingham, D-Chelsea, who recently became the new Speaker of the House.

She graduated Cum Laude from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst in 1991. She also studied in England at the University of Hull and worked as a tutor for some time after her graduation.

TOWN NEWS, from page 2A.

Selectmen choose new administrator

Caryn Cove, an Arlington resident and deputy director of operations for the Massachusetts Senate Ways and Means Committee, will become the new administrator for the Board of Selectmen, it was announced Monday night.

Cove, 26, replaces John Dunlap who was promoted to new assistant town manager and purchasing agent. She was hired by unanimous vote by the selectmen, according to Chairman Charles Lyons.

"We are most pleased that a person of your character, reputation, and competence applied for this position and we look forward to your quality service for many years to come," Lyons wrote in a letter to Cove.

"I am very pleased about it, I'm very excited," Cove said. "I'm interested in government," said Cove who moved to Arlington from her native Chicopee three years ago.

In the Statehouse Cove was in charge of a 30 person office and a \$1.2 million budget, according to her resume.

In 1992 she worked as a legislative aide for state sen. Thomas Birmingham, D-Chelsea, who recently became the new Speaker of the House.

She graduated Cum Laude from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst in 1991. She also studied in England at the University of Hull and worked as a tutor for some time after her graduation.

She'll begin her work in Town

Hall in late February.

Town elections scheduled for March

Town elections will be held on Saturday, March 30. At that time Arlington will be hiring help for the next year. Up for election are 84 town meeting seats for three years, plus others for a year or two because of vacancies which may have occurred. Also up for election are the town clerk, treasurer, one assessor, two selectmen, and three school committee positions.

Deadline for picking up nomination papers is Feb. 9. Papers must be given to the Registrar of Voters by Feb. 12.

For more information, call the town clerk's office at 646-1000, Ext. 4054 or the League of Women Voters at 646-4667 or 643-7622.

Meetings

Thursday, Jan. 25

Arlington Historic District Commissions, 8 p.m., Jefferson Cutter House, 1 Whittemore Park

Tuesday, Jan. 30

Zoning Board of Appeals, 7:45 p.m., Public Works Assembly Hall, 51 Grove St.

Tuesday, Jan. 30

School Committee, 7:30 p.m., School Committee room, sixth level, Arlington High School, 865 Massachusetts Ave.

VOLUNTEERS

AHS needs volunteer

Arlington High School needs volunteers:

- to tutor students at the high school in math (some with special needs)

- to help collate reading materials for elementary students at the high school

- to be trained with a team of volunteers by the librarian at the Thompson School

- to assist in checking out books at the Hardy and Stratton library.

For more information, call Judi Bohm at 646-1000, ext. 3212.

Orientation for library volunteers at Robbins

The Robbins Library will offer two orientation sessions for volunteers.

teers interested in shelving materials and maintaining the library shelves.

Oriental sessions will be held on Monday, Jan. 29, 7 to 8:30 p.m. and Friday, Feb. 2, 3 to 4:30 p.m.

Volunteers will be expected to attend one of the sessions. To register, call Cynthia Dimiture at 646-1000, Ext. 4304.

CORRECTION

Wrong date

In last week's edition, The Advocate published the wrong date for Jerusalem anniversary program at Temple Isaiah in Lexington. The event was held Wednesday.

Selectmen dedicate O'Neill meeting room

By Patrick McGee
ADVOCATE STAFF

Even though he died of cancer three years ago, Robert O'Neill, chairman of the finance committee for many years, was present at Monday night's Board of Selectmen meeting.

His memory was vividly brought to life when he was remembered by friends and officials in the Community Safety Building, where the meeting room was named after him.

Friends, family and public officials jammed into the room leaving standing room only.

"Bob would not just react to circumstances of the time, but would look to make things change," said Allan Tosti, the main speaker for the ceremony in O'Neill's honor. He spoke at a podium in front of a new plaque officially calling the room the "Robert F. O'Neill Memorial Meeting Room."

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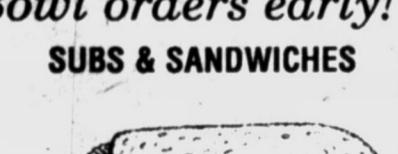
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Voting by mail also increases voter participation—it broke all records in Oregon. It gives voters plenty of time to make a decision. It eliminates waiting in line to vote, and the problems that keep people away from the polling place, such as bad weather, age or physical handicaps. Voter participation has topped 90% in some contests.

Such results are gratifying to us at the U.S. Postal Service. If voting by mail works in Oregon, why not in other states, or even nationwide? We're glad people trust us to deliver their vote, and like the idea of bringing the ballot box and the voter closer together.



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ADVOCATE PHOTO BY STEWART WOODWARD

From left, EPA Administrator Carol Browner, Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt, U.S. Rep. Edward Markey and state Rep. Jake Kaufman of Lexington talk during Sunday's environmental conference.

Republican Congress blasted at environmental conference

By Patrick McGee

ADVOCATE STAFF

LEXINGTON — Congressman Ed Markey, D-Malden, mustered some of the environmental big guns on Sunday to reload support for the environment and blast the Republicans for trying to rescind environmental legislation.

Secretary of the Interior Bruce Babbitt and administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency Carol Browner both took the podium to praise Markey, who represents Arlington as part of his district, for his work and criticize the Congressional Republicans for trying to "roll back 25 years of progress."

Browner addressed the crowd of about 500, harshly criticizing Congressional Republicans for closing her department during the government shutdown and voting to drastically slash her budget.

"The president's plan will keep the environmental cop on the beat while the Republicans' plan lets polluters off the hook," Browner said, portraying the moment as no time to relax environmental standards. She said that two-thirds of the rivers and streams in Massachusetts are too polluted for fishing or swimming and 4.6 million Massachusetts residents have drinking water that failed to pass at least one water safety test in 1994.

Browner spoke before Babbitt and had to leave early to tour the oil spill off the coast of Rhode Island.

Babbitt talked about the Park Closure Bill that was eventually withdrawn from the House floor in the face of much public opposition.

"I never heard a single American — not even one — tell me we have too many parks," Babbitt said.

eliciting laughter from the audience that, judging by their applause and questions, was largely made up of environmentalists.

He didn't wear a coat and tie as every other participant in the conference did, but looked like an outdoorsman with a shirt and sweater and slinging his nylon winter coat over the back of his chair.

The secretary said he could not reason with Congress and instead toured the country to build support for the land that had begun to be set aside as national parks in the 1930s.

In a slow and soft voice reminiscent of Charles Kuralt, he painted a vivid picture of a journey floating down rivers and driving over the vast reaches of national parks. Conjuring up the imagery of traveling across the land and meeting many people, Babbitt touched on a piece of Americana that seemed to enthrall the audience.

"At each stop the crowds got larger and larger," Babbitt said, describing his trek along the federally-protected coast of Florida.

He accused Republicans of trying to kill some environmental protections by cutting their funding because, he said, they dare not rescind all of the laws.

"They know it would be too big a risk to debate in front of the American people," he said. The crowd gave him a standing ovation as he walked off the stage.

Other prominent environmentalist spoke at the conference in Lexington including Robert Cox, president of the Sierra Club, Noble Laureate Dr. Mario Molina and Devra Davis, a scientist well-known for her chemical research.

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INSIDE ARLINGTON

Arlington Redevelopment Board considers implementing ABC Study recommendations

ABC STUDY, from page 1A.

involved, this will never work. Town Meeting needs to make a commitment."

Improvements made on the model block would spur the enhancement of other blocks on Massachusetts Avenue, and act as a model for a partnership between the town and merchants, Tsoi said.

At the start of the meeting, the board laid out the plan for discussion: breaking the items down into categories of fast, moderate and slow goals, and inexpensive and expensive goals. That itinerary was abandoned almost immediately. After a discussion on the possibility of changing zoning laws and non-conforming bylaws, Tsoi directed the discussion back to the implementation of the ABC Study, which was completed in October.

"Zoning is a means to an end. I don't want to talk about it now. I want to take advantage of the people assembled here to talk about the ABC Study."

Tsoi stated that the town's expectations of the board are unrealistic. "Everyday someone asks me, 'Why can't you fix it?' That's not how it works. We are not the private sector. We are the public sector." Tsoi said the business community and the town need to foster a partnership.

"One lesson I've learned from East Arlington's development is that the energy has to come from the community as much as from the board, so I suggest forming subgroups, one for each section," he said. "Each board member can attend a different meeting, and take clear, set endorsements made by that committee and bring it back and put it together."

CAC member Pat Deal said she was concerned with all the hypothesis and assumptions that are in the ABC study. "I need to know the

how-to. How are we going to make these changes?" she said.

Board member Margaret Spengler answered by saying that if the study identifies a specific site or enhancement, the town should only see that as an example of what can be done.

"We need to use the study as a blue print for what you and I and the town want," Spengler said. "We can flesh out what we want. Now is the time for us to be involved and think seriously about what can be done."

After several members raised questions on how the town can control absentee landlords and vacant retail space, and why soliciting clean industrial and non-retail commercial business was not in the study, Chamber of Commerce president Carol Ryerson interjected.

"My blood pressure is boiling," she said. "I am very frustrated. Our questions have not been answered. We are picking over the same issues of last year and nothing is getting accomplished. The discourse is great, but let's get going."

CAC member Linda Olsen said, "I feel just the opposite. I think the study has been a wonderful visionary tool. The piece that's missing is leadership."

"We paid big bucks for the answers, and we got them. But now we don't have the key to turn on the engine. I want to be active," said CAC and Town Meeting member Peter Villandry.

Good Neighbor Committee Member Steve Baker said, "We need a solid idea (before we can act.)"

Commenting on the members' frustration, Tsoi said, "I know your frustration, that feeling of 'we've been here before.' But you have to help us start. How would you like

to see things done? We are our own worst enemy. The energy has got to come from a burning desire, a frustration deep within the heart of you."

After a brief discussion of the one block model plan, it was decided that nothing more could be

accomplished until funding is granted.

Town Meeting member Ron Nigro said, "That's very positive. Much better than studies." After the meeting he added, "I don't think Town Meeting will go for it, though."

Babbitt: Minuteman National Historic Park can be extended

Bruce Babbitt, US secretary of the interior, said that it is possible for Minuteman National Historic Park to be expanded into Arlington.

The Arlington Business Community Study released in October recommends lobbying the government to expand the park into Arlington where some of the historic events also took place.

In a brief interview with the Advocate on Sunday, Babbitt said it's possible to expand the park into Arlington but might be "tough" with the current Republican Congress.

He suggested that Arlingtonians who want to see the park come to their town "form partnerships" and "call Ed Markey's office." Markey, D-Malden, represents Arlington as part of his district.

"It sounds good to me," Markey said saying he'd be willing to work with citizens who want to expand the park into Arlington. "It happens at Civil War sites all the time and there's a good reason to support it for Revolutionary war sites as well."

He noted that he sits on the House Resource Committee which has jurisdiction over the national parks.

"We can accomplish that goal," Markey said.

Pat Fitzmaurice, the managing trustee of the Old Schwamb Mill and a member of the Historical Society, said park would be a major asset to the town if expanded into Arlington. She pointed out that it would bring federally-paid professionally-trained park rangers that would attract tourists and business.

Some residents complain of how other communities such as Lexington get more mileage out of their historical sites while Arlington has numerous sites that don't get enough recognition.

Calling it "a powerful way to protect space" Babbitt also praised the open space bond bill, currently in the state legislature which would give cities and towns money to buy open space.

"Those are great," he said noting that similar bills have been passed in Florida and California.

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INSIDE ARLINGTON

Power fails in town center

OUTAGE, from page 1A.
ness owners shared Gruber's concern about the condition of the electrical infrastructure.

Last year an underground transformer in the Center was replaced in an emergency action.

Korell said the most recent emergency decision to take the customers out of service was made because of an impeding rainstorm Friday evening. If the damaged cable was kept in service, there was a chance that seeping water could have caused a more extensive outage, Korell said.

The cable failure was discovered Jan. 16 by a crew replacing a

utility pole knocked down in an accident. Efforts to repair the cable failed, so it had to be replaced, Korell said.

She did not know how old the cable was, but said old cables are not necessarily a problem, citing the copper that was used in them as a better conductor than current aluminum wiring.

Korell also said the outage is not in the same area that experienced four outages during the summer. That occurred in East Arlington, prompting town officials to ask Korell to report to them on the status of the area's electrical infrastructure.

SYMMES, from page 1A.
swords in the past over the Symmes issue. Lyons once told Marzilli, "I'd appreciate it if it doesn't get bogged down in the legislative process." Marzilli later said the Symmes legislation was "dead" because of Lyons' "inaction."

Fighting words weren't present at Tuesday's hearing, however, with Lyons thanking Marzilli for sitting on the committee and Marzilli listening quietly to the testimony from both sides.

Lyons told the committee that ambulances will not take patients to Symmes if acute care is gone.

"We believe that level of service at Symmes is a matter of life and

death," Lyons said, pointing out that if Symmes is the only acute-care hospital in the state with a property tax levied against it. He also pointed out that Symmes is the third largest employer in the town.

"This is the most important home-rule legislation I've ever had the opportunity to appear in front of a committee about," said Maher, who has been counsel to the town of Arlington for 17 years.

He said exempting Symmes from \$48,000 in property taxes would only raise taxes \$3.39 per household.

"Really what we're asking people to do is pay \$1 more per year," he said.

Maher admitted to the committee that giving the hospital tax-exempt status would not guarantee that they will keep acute care, but he said it makes the town a "player" in negotiations to keep the service. The home-rule petition says the tax-exempt status will be revoked if acute care is ended.

"I don't want to give anyone an excuse right now to eliminate acute care services in Arlington," Lyons said following Maher's comments. He said the home-rule bill is revenue neutral because the money will be collected from other sources.

"It's not revenue neutral to me and to every other tax payer in Arlington," objected Whittle when it

was his turn to speak.

He said the hospital sits on nearly 16 "highly-developable" acres that was, according to him, greatly underestimated by town assessors after Symmes was taken over.

Calling \$48,000 an "artificial figure," Abbott also accused the Board of Assessors of underestimating the value of the land.

"It would be terrible public policy to give a for-profit hospital tax-free status," Abbott said. "On principle, which is what this measure is about, it is a very bad idea."

State Sen. Robert Havner, D-Arlington, and Rep. Anne Paulsen, D-Belmont, testified in favor of the home-rule bill in comments so brief they did not even take a seat as everyone else did.

Symmes tax issue heard by subcommittee

RETIREMENT, from page 1A.

Under his guidance, the church began holding an annual Martin Luther King celebration seven years ago.

"He always speaks about Martin Luther King very favorably. He also speaks about the acceptance of people and trying to help them better themselves," said David Gray, member of the congregation and chairman of the pulpit search committee that hired Jackson 13 years ago.

"Other people have said that they feel comfortable in this church because they're treated as individual human beings," Gray said noting that his wife, who is Jewish, always felt comfortable in the church and around Jackson. "I think that's sort of the attitude he tries to convey to people. He's also

a peacemaker ... We're a lot friendlier church with him around, friendlier to each other as well as to other people."

When Willia Cooper moved to Arlington in 1984 she said she had never been to a predominantly white church before but soon came to feel at home at the First Baptist Church.

"People who come into the church are welcomed by the congregation and I attribute a lot of that to Paul," she said. Cooper said she saw his respect for people as individuals when she asked him to speak at her aunt's wake even though he did not know her.

"He talked about her not as if he knew her but as a fellow human being with a lot of dignity and grace and I'll never forget that about him," she said.

Jackson's philosophy didn't just filter down into his sermons but also into his activities and groups he joined. He was a member of the Arlington Interfaith Group, Arlington Citizens and Clergy Embracing Pluralism and Trust (ACCEPT) and the Massachusetts Department of Education's Safe Schools Program, a group advocating for safety of gay students in public schools.

According to family legend, Jackson was sick with pneumonia in northern Maine at the age of only six-months-old. Shortly after doctors told his parents they expected him to die his 7-year-old brother came into the room and prayed that he would survive and become a minister. Jackson said

he was told this story when he was 10 years old — the time in his life when he decided to become a minister. He recalled the story and said simply, "I think God called me."

Jackson was a pastor in New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Maine before coming to Arlington in May of 1982.

"I'm going to take three months to read and think. We plan to live in Arlington for a while," Jackson said referring to his retirement with his wife, Eleanor, a staff member of Arlington High School. He said, however, that it is not customary for a Baptist minister to attend the church he or she was once pastor of.

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INSIDE ARLINGTON

POLICE LOG

ARRESTS

■ On Jan. 17 at 7 p.m., police went to Sutherland Road for a report of a fight between a boyfriend and girlfriend. A 42-year-old woman had run out into the street to escape her boyfriend, who allegedly threatened her with a knife. The woman said the boyfriend broke into her home on Lorne Road. He allegedly took a 12-inch carving knife from the kitchen and she pushed a dresser against the bedroom door to keep him away from her. He pushed the door open and threatened her with the knife. She then ran to Sutherland Road, where police met her and arrested the 23-year-old Dorchester man for assault by means of a dangerous weapon. An emergency restraining order was issued.

■ On Jan. 17 at 10:30 p.m., police went to Coolidge Road to serve a

warrant. A 32-year-old Arlington man was arrested for a warrant for violating a restraining order.

■ On Jan. 21 at 10:30 p.m., police went to Fordham Street for a report of a family fight. A 21-year-old woman said her boyfriend pushed her down several times and pulled her hair. During the argument, he also allegedly pushed her 76-year-old grandfather and bruised his elbow. The 24-year-old Revere man was arrested for assault and battery. At the police station, a small explosive believed to be a quarter stick of dynamite was found in his pocket. He said he found it in the back of the taxi cab he drives and decided to keep it. He was also charged with possession of an explosive devise.

BREAKING AND ENTERING

■ On Jan. 18, an officer was on patrol on Massachusetts Avenue in East Arlington and discovered that the door to the Irish Connection was smashed in. The store's jewel-



The car of Electra Glatrellis, 62, of Somerville, rests alongside Mystic Valley Parkway after a three car collision Monday morning. Firefighters used a hydraulic-powered extrication tool to free Glatrellis. She sustained an injury to her leg and was taken to Massachusetts General Hospital, where she was reported to be in good condition Wednesday afternoon.

ry box was emptied and several clothing items were also missing.

■ On Jan. 19 at 2:40 p.m., an officer on patrol on Massachusetts Avenue in the center of town discovered that the glass door of Bagels by US was broken. The owner was

summoned to the store and he reported that \$190 was missing.

■ On Jan. 22 at 2:10 p.m., an apartment tenant on Appleton Street discovered that his door had been forced open. The resident reported \$400 missing from the apartment.

■ On Jan. 15 at 2:12 p.m., a 93-year-old woman on Massachusetts Avenue fell and had pain in her hip and leg. She was taken to the Medical Center at Symmes.

■ On Jan. 16 at 8:15 a.m., a car accident was reported on Massachusetts Avenue. An 11-year-old boy in the back seat was reported to be suffering from neck and back pain. He was placed in a cervical collar and taken to the Medical Center at Symmes.

■ On Jan. 17 at 12:30 p.m., an 84-year-old man was reported to be suffering from shortness of breath on Varnum Street. He was given oxygen and taken to Lahey Clinic.

■ On Jan. 17 at 7:10 p.m., an 81-year-old woman was reported to be suffering from shortness of breath. She was given oxygen and taken to Mount Auburn Hospital

by Armstrong Ambulance.

■ On Jan. 18 at 2:18 p.m., a work crew was reported to have broken a high pressure gas main with a back hoe. The odor was very strong and firefighters stood by as Boston Gas company repaired the break.

■ On Jan. 19 at 7:02 a.m., firefighters went to Mystic Valley Parkway to investigate a report of downed wires. While there they saw a dog in the river. They used the fire department boat to save the dog.

■ On Jan. 19 at 2:30 p.m., an 85-year-old woman was reported to be suffering from chest pains and to be having difficulty breathing. She was given oxygen and taken to the Medical Center at Symmes.

■ On Jan. 19 at 6:02 p.m., a 74-year-old man on Grove Street was reported to have pain in his arms

and chest. He was taken to the Medical Center at Symmes.

■ On Jan. 19 at 11:55 p.m., a two-year-old boy was reported to be suffering from a cough and congestion on Varnum Street. He was taken to Children's Hospital.

■ On Jan. 20 at 9:30 a.m., a one-year-old boy on Brattle Place was reported to be making short gasps and shaking. He was given oxygen and taken to Winchester Hospital.

■ On Jan. 21 at 8:03 a.m., a 49-year-old woman was reported to have slipped on the ice on Thesda Road. She hit her head when she fell and was found face-down on the ground when the rescue squad arrived. She said she lost consciousness for five minutes. She was placed in a cervical collar and taken to the Medical Center at Symmes.

FIRE REPORT

RESPONSES

Rescue and Fire services responded to 86 calls last week, including 27 rescues, 22 investigations, three fire alarms and 11 calls for flooding four calls for downed wires during the rain storm on Friday.

■ On Jan. 15 at 1:08 p.m., a 43-year-old man was reported to be suffering from a seizure on Governors Road. He was taken to Mount Auburn Hospital by Armstrong Ambulance.

Store land issue tabled indefinitely

LAND, from page 1A.
posed it. William Carey was absent.

Simmons said she could not support the motion because she felt the vote should be on whether or not to declare the land surplus. But she also noted that the votes would not be there in favor of declaring the land surplus.

McKenna agreed, in comments after the vote, that he would have liked to vote directly on the surplus issue.

"What we've done now is put it off for awhile, but some future School Committee will be dealing with this in the future," McKenna said.

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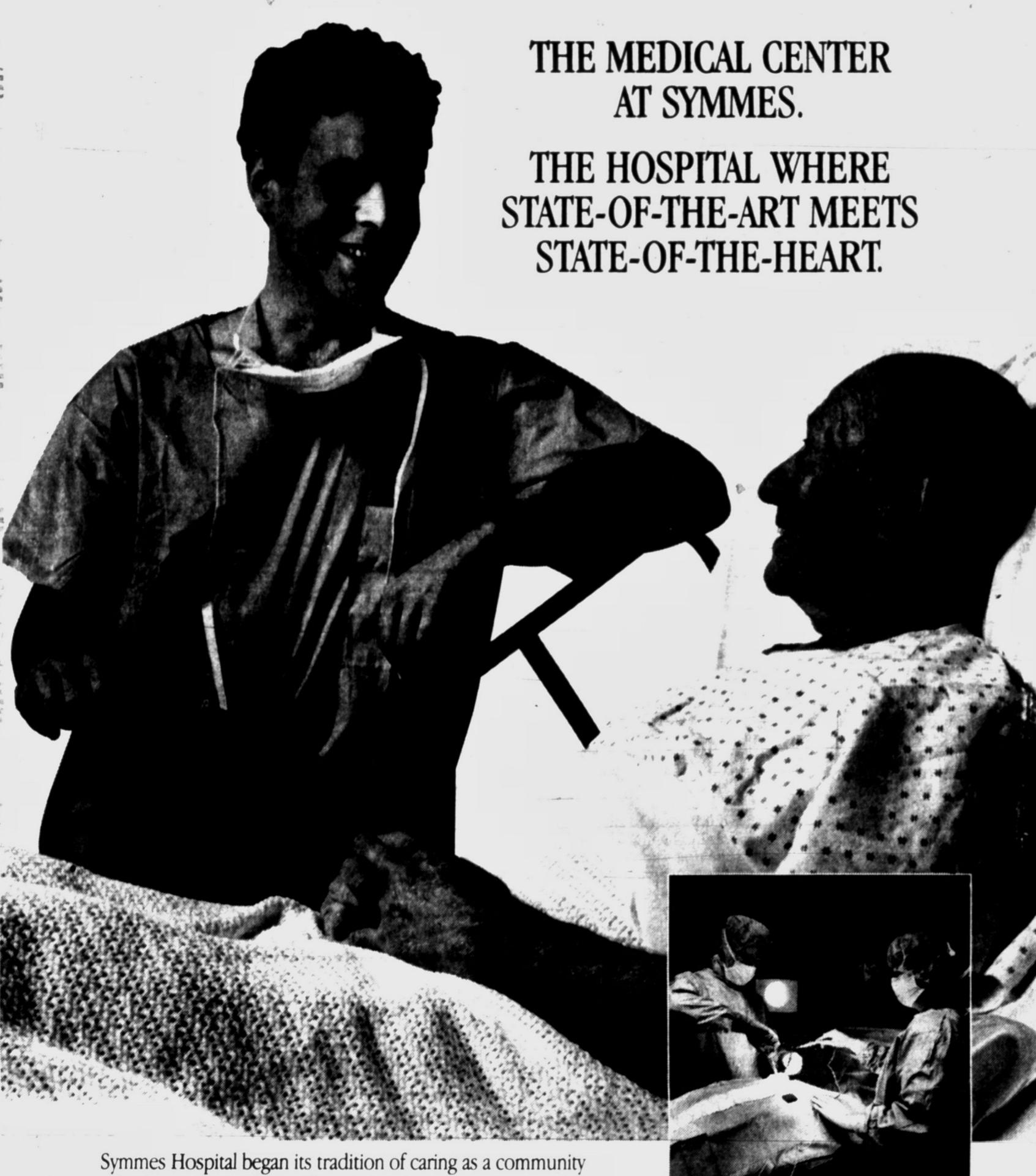
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ABOUT ARLINGTON PEOPLE

Resident pursues cancer research

Arlington resident Elizabeth Mick was cited recently for her contributions to research in cancer cell biology and radiation therapy. Mick pursues research part-time under the direction of Susan Braunhut, professor of biological sciences at the University of Massachusetts Lowell. Mick also works at the Brigham and Women's Hospital Blood Bank in Boston.

Braunhut was invited to present the results of her research at the 10th International Congress of Radiation Research, held recently in Wurzburg, Germany. Mick was named co-author of the paper "Matrix Metalloproteinases (MMPs) Produced by Irradiated Endothelial Cells."

Mick moved to Arlington in December.

2nd Lt. Ryan receives security training in TX

Air Force 2nd Lt. John J. Ryan III has completed the Air Base Defense Command course at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas.

The course trains selected security police personnel who are or will be assigned to a headquarters Base Defense Operations Center (BDOC). It is the most-advanced ground-combat-skills course offered by the United States Air Force Security Police Academy.

Ryan is the son of Jocko and Barbara Ryan of Arlington.

His wife, Air Force 2nd Lt. Olga Ryan is the daughter of John and Becky Mohler of Tombstone, Ariz.

He graduated in 1990 from Arlington High School, and in 1994 from Norwich University, Northfield, Vt.

Two residents join Peabody & Arnold

Joseph D. S. Hinkley, managing partner of the Boston law firm Peabody & Arnold announced recently that a group of 25 lawyers has joined Peabody & Arnold. Within that group are two Arlington attorneys.

Kathy Colbert, an associate from Arlington, specializes in commercial law, insurance defense, mal-

practice defense, and directors and officers liability. She is a graduate of New England School of Law.

Kevin O'Leary joins the firm as associate and specializes in civil litigation, premises liability, personal injury law, railroad law, insurance defense, and immigration law. He is a graduate of University of Chicago and Boston College Law School and currently resides in Arlington.

The group provides comprehensive defense litigation services, primarily to insurance companies, in the areas of directors and officers liability, professional malpractice liability, premises liability and general liability. They are also very active in general and commercial litigation.

Rings gets bachelor's degree in social work

Shannon R. Rings graduated from Ohio University cum laude with a bachelor's degree in social work. She has attained her Ohio License in Social Work. Rings is working as a case manager for the Tri-County Mental Health and Counseling Services Inc. in Athens, Ohio, and has 40 clients. She was a 1991 graduate of Lexington Christian Academy.

Rings is the daughter of Linda and Robert Rings of Windmill Lane. They are also graduates of Ohio University.

Residents named to Quinnipiac dean's list

Keri McLaughlin and Kathleen Tobin, both of Arlington, have been named to Quinnipiac College (Hamden, Conn.) dean's honor list for the 1995 fall semester.

Goldsmith on Fenn School honor roll

Christopher Goldsmith, a seventh grader at The Fenn School in Concord, has earned academic honors for the first trimester. He is the son of Dr. and Mrs. Gary Goldsmith of Arlington.

Gerhold receives biomed certificate

Susan Gerhold of Arlington received a certificate at the commencement exercises of the Cambridge Biomedical Careers Program held at the Charlestown campus of Bunker Hill Community College (BHCC) of Boston.

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NEWS NOTES

Club seeks funds to help with renovations

During the last 58 years the Arlington Boys and Girls Club has had a meaningful and positive impact on the lives of tens of thousands of children and adults who have passed through its doors. The club has profoundly influenced and enriched the quality of their lives. As we approach the next millennium, there will be greater demands for quality programming and services that are offered at the club. To meet the club's current needs and position it to meet the additional demands in the next century, the Boys and Girls Club will need to make a major renovation and essential repairs to the facility which is more than 32 years old. The project includes:

■ Upgrade of locker room facilities and bathrooms, and improve access to the pool area to meet the needs of the handicapped and related work

■ Enhance fire alarm system to ADA requirements and related work

■ Redesign and modernize poorly ventilated and outdated fitness room, refurbish gymnasium floor, replace doors and related work

■ Establish a pilot program to focus on weight training, fitness and wellness for all members and especially teens. A remodeled fitness area and instructions in proper techniques would be a major attraction which would significantly advance the state of teen programming at the club beyond the year 2000.

The club has received conditional grants in the amount of approximately \$63,000 from various sources but must raise the balance of \$62,000.

Send donations to the Arlington Boys and Girls Club, Building Renovation Fund, 60 Pond Lane, Arlington, MA 02174. All donations are tax deductible. Help the club continue its mission that was started almost 60 years ago by a group of caring and concerned citizens who saw a need in the community and believed in the adage "it takes a whole community to raise a child."

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AIDS and blood trans... 2115 Colon cancer..... 1113 Vasectomy..... 2415
AIDS and men..... 2121 Hodgkin's disease..... 1143 COSMETIC SURGERY
AIDS fact and fiction... 2113 Kidney cancer..... 1135 Breast enlargement..... 8214
AIDS sex, strangers... 2114 Leukemia/adults..... 1123 Breast reduction..... 8215
AIDS treatment..... 2126 Liver cancer..... 1141 Eyes..... 8221
CANCER Lung cancer..... 1121 Facelifts..... 8215
Bladder cancer..... 1131 Ovary cancer..... 1125 Fat removal..... 8214
Bone cancer..... 1133 Prostate cancer..... 1114 Hair transplants..... 8213
Brain tumors..... 1134 Skin cancer..... 1115 Mononucleosis..... 8213
Breast cancer..... 1111 Stomach cancer..... 1132 Noses..... 8222 TB-tuberculosis..... 4242

DIABETES/THYROID	KIDNEY AND BLADDER	PAIN	SKIN PROBLEMS
Throat cancer..... 1142 Diabetes..... 9215	Blood in the urine..... 6317 Arthritis & rheumatism..... 7121 Acne..... 8113	Cystitis..... 6311 Backache..... 7113 Allergies..... 8116	Cold sores..... 8115
Uterus cancer..... 1124 Hypoglycemia..... 9212	Kidney stones..... 6314 Carpal tunnel syndrome..... 7123 Athlete's foot..... 8121	Gout..... 7122 Baldness..... 8142	Pityriasis..... 8144
CHILDREN'S PROBLEMS	Thyroid - overactivity .. 9213	LUNG	Psoriasis..... 8112
Croup..... 4112	Thyroid - underactivity .. 9214	Asthma in adults..... 1312 Ordinary headache..... 7114	Unsightly hair..... 8141
Diarrhea and vomiting.. 4113	EAR, NOSE AND THROAT	Asthma in children..... 1311 Slipped disc..... 7115	StOMACH/ABDOMEN/DIGESTION
Dyslexia..... 4124	Bloody nose..... 4415	Bronchitis..... 1313 Whiplash..... 7116	Appendicitis..... 6221
Hyperactive children .. 4122	Ear wax..... 4416	Pneumonia..... 1315	Constipation..... 6216
CIRCULATION AND VEINS	Perforated ear drum.... 4422	Migraine..... 7117	Crohn's disease..... 6226
Anemia..... 1417	TMJ-jaw joint pain .. 4424	Ordinary headache..... 7118	Diarrhea in adults..... 4212
Circulation, general .. 1413	SiNUSiS..... 4414	Slipped disc..... 7119	Diverticular disease..... 6236
Cramps..... 1414	EARACHE/infections .. 4411	Manic depression..... 7120	Gallstones..... 6212
Phlebitis..... 1415	Perforated ear drum.... 4422	Nervous breakdown..... 7121	Gastric/duodenal ulcers .. 6213
Thrombosis in veins.... 1416	TMJ-jaw joint pain .. 4424	Schizophrenia..... 7122	Chlamydia..... 2213
Varicose veins..... 1412	SiNUSiS..... 4414	Sleep disorders..... 7123	Genital herpes..... 2214
CONTRACEPTION	ELDERLY CONCERNs	Stress in general..... 7124	Genital warts..... 2215
Birth control pill..... 2412	ELDERLY CONCERNs	Tiredness..... 7125	Gonorrhea..... 2216
Condoms for men..... 2427	ELDERLY CONCERNs	Masturbation-men..... 7126	Sexual diseases..... 2217
Condoms for women .. 2421	ELDERLY CONCERNs	Masturbation-women .. 7127	SEXUAL MATTERS
Contraception in general .. 2421	ELDERLY CONCERNs	Masturbation-children .. 7128	SEXUAL MATTERS
Contraceptive implants .. 2424	ELDERLY CONCERNs	Premature ejaculation .. 7129	OPERATIONS/TESTS
Contraceptive injections .. 2425	Heart attacks..... 1212	Rape..... 7130	Breast self exam..... 9141
How to stop the pill.... 2414	Heart murmurs..... 1215	Sex during pregnancy .. 9131	Chemotherapy..... 9131
Intra-uterine devices-IUD .. 2426	High blood pressure.... 1214	Sex in disabled .. 9132	Encephalitis .. 4236
Low blood pressure..... 1225	Low blood pressure.... 1223	Sex response in men .. 9133	Flu..... 4215
TESTICULAR CANCER	Osteoporosis..... 6112	Sex response in women .. 9134	Colostomy..... 9113
Cervical cancer..... 1112	Sexual satisfaction/elderly .. 2335	Sexual abuse & children .. 9112	Endoscopy..... 9124
Colon cancer..... 1113	Sexual satisfaction/elderly .. 2335	Sex therapy..... 9123	Hysterectomy..... 9111
Hodgkin's disease..... 1143	SEXUAL MATTERS	Transvestism..... 9134	Mastectomy..... 9112
Breast enlargement..... 8214	SEXUAL MATTERS	Vaginal discharge..... 9115	MRI..... 9124
Encephalitis .. 4236	SEXUAL MATTERS	Vaginal bleeding..... 9116	PAP smears .. 9134
Flu..... 4215	SEXUAL MATTERS	Vaginal discharge..... 9117	TB-tuberculosis..... 4242
Colostomy..... 9113	SEXUAL MATTERS	Vaginal discharge..... 9118	
Endoscopy..... 9124	SEXUAL MATTERS	Vaginal discharge..... 9119	
Hysterectomy..... 9111	SEXUAL MATTERS	Vaginal discharge..... 9120	
Mastectomy..... 9112	SEXUAL MATTERS	Vaginal discharge..... 9121	
MRI..... 9124	SEXUAL MATTERS	Vaginal discharge..... 9122	
PAP smears .. 9134	SEXUAL MATTERS	Vaginal discharge..... 9123	
TB-tuberculosis..... 4242	SEXUAL MATTERS	Vaginal discharge..... 9124	

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Reviewed Favorably

POLITICS



Beacon Hill Roll Call



Sen. Havern



Rep. Marzilli



Rep. Paulsen

BEACON HILL ROLL CALL
Volume 23-Report No. 3
Massachusetts House and Senate
Jan. 19, 1996

THE HOUSE AND SENATE. BEACON HILL ROLL CALL continues its series of reports on legislation approved by the legislature during the first half of the 1995-96 session and signed into law by Gov. Weld. There were no roll calls in the House or Senate last week.

POSTPONE HEALTH CARE(H 5618) — House 148-2 (no Senate roll call), approved and Gov. Weld signed a bill postponing until Aug. 1 the universal health care law requiring companies with six or more employees to offer their workers health insurance or pay \$1680 per worker into a state fund to provide health care to the uninsured. The law was scheduled to take effect in January. Opponents of the delay said they favored repealing the mandate.

A Yes vote is for the delay. A No vote is against the delay.

Rep. Jim Marzilli voted yes.

Rep. Anne M. Paulsen did not vote.

MEDICARE CUTS (H 5551) — House 118-31, approved resolutions urging the state's congressional delegation to oppose the proposed reductions in the growth of federal Medicare and Medicaid benefits for the elderly, poor and disabled. The resolutions were House resolutions and do not go to the Senate or Gov. Weld for consideration.

A Yes vote is for the resolutions.

A No vote is against the resolutions.

Marzilli voted yes.

Paulsen voted yes.

CHILD BIRTH (S 2000) — Senate 36-0, (no House roll call), approved and Gov. Weld signed a bill requiring private and public health insurance plans, including health maintenance organizations, to cover a minimum two-day hospital stay following vaginal births and a four-day stay following a Caesarean section. The proposal allows the attending doctor or certified

Political Notebook

Republican Town Committee will meet

The Arlington Republican Town Committee will conduct its monthly meeting on Thursday, Jan. 25, at the Public Safety Building at 112 Mystic St., Arlington at 7:30 p.m. The agenda will consist of important business matters and other pertinent factors.

Paulsen holds office hours at Fox branch

Representative Anne M. Paulsen will hold office hours in East Arlington on Friday, Feb. 2 from 1 to 2 p.m. at the Fox Library at the corner of Cleveland Street and Massachusetts Ave. Also, in order to be accessible to those who work during the day, Paulsen will also meet with constituents at the Fox Library on Wednesday, Feb. 21 from 7 to 8 p.m.

All East Arlington residents are welcome to come to meet Paulsen, to let her know about concerns they have, or to ask for help with legislation or in dealing with state agencies.

Paulsen can now be reached at a new e-mail address at the State House: Rep.AnnePaulsen@House.state.ma.us.

Marzilli schedules office hours Fridays

Rep. Jim Marzilli holds office hours at the Council on Aging. Office hours will be every first and third Friday of the month: Friday, Feb. 2 and 16, from 9 to 11 a.m. and Friday, March 1 and 15, from 9 to 11 a.m.

Department of Social Services (DSS) accounts which are running out of money.

A Yes vote is for the \$8.5 million.

Havern did not vote.

BANK TAX REDUCTIONS (S 1974) — Senate 35-2 (no House roll call) approved and Gov. Weld signed a bill reducing the state's bank tax rate from 12.3 percent to 10.5 percent over five years.

A Yes vote is for the tax reduction. A No vote is against the tax reduction.

Havern voted yes.

Coming Up on Beacon Hill

STALKING (S 2044) — The Criminal Justice Committee is considering a bill making it a crime to stalk a person by telephone. Sponsored by Senators Bruce Tarr (R-Gloucester), James Jajuga (D-Methuen), Rep. Brian Cresta (R-Wakefield), Robert Hargraves (R-Groton), Edward Connolly (D-Everett) and Gale Hahn (R-Westfield).

BICYCLE PATHS (H 1940) — Gov. Weld has amended and sent back to the legislature a bill requiring the state to provide for the accommodation of bicycle and pedestrian traffic in the planning and construction of highway projects unless it is determined that the accommodation would conflict with public safety or environmental concerns. Gov. Weld amended the proposal to allow the decision to also be based on "costs and benefits" involved. Sponsored by Rep. Anne Paulsen (D-Belmont).

GUN FREE SCHOOL ZONES (H 5210) — The Criminal Justice Committee is looking at a proposal imposing a

minimum mandatory two-year prison sentence on anyone who possesses a firearm within 1,000 feet of any public or private school. The bill exempts law enforcement officers and individuals licensed to possess a firearm if the firearm is not loaded and is in a locked container or locked rack on a motor vehicle. Sponsored by Sen. Cheryl Jacques (D-Needham) and Rep. Rachel Kaprielian (D-Watertown).

HOME ADDRESSES (S 1966) — The House has given initial approval to a Senate-approved bill prohibiting the disclosure of the home address or telephone number of employees or families of employees of law enforcement, the department of youth services and the correctional, public safety and criminal justice system. Sponsored by Attorney General Scott Harshbarger and Sen. Cheryl Jacques (D-Needham).

How long was this week's session?

BEACON HILL ROLL CALL tracks the length of each week's legislative session. During the week of Jan. 15 through 19, the House met for a total of two hours and three minutes, while the Senate met for a total of one hour and 57 minutes.

Monday, Jan. 15, — NO HOUSE SESSION/NO SENATE SESSION

Tuesday, Jan. 16, — HOUSE convened at 11:04 a.m., adjourned at 11:52 a.m.; **SENATE** convened at 11 a.m., adjourned at 12:02 p.m.

Wednesday, Jan. 17, — NO HOUSE SESSION/NO SENATE SESSION

Thursday, Jan. 18, — HOUSE convened at 11 a.m., adjourned at 12:15 p.m.; **SENATE** convened at 11 a.m., adjourned at 11:55 a.m.

Friday, Jan. 19, — NO HOUSE SESSION/NO SENATE SESSION

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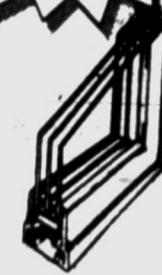
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COMMENT

The Birthplace
of "Uncle Sam"
Samuel Wilson

Editorial

The vote

One could almost hear the sickening strains of Muzak fill the School Committee room Tuesday night as the school system operators put interested Arlington residents on hold again.

The much-awaited vote on the issue of whether to surplus school land — an action that would be the first step toward selling the land to Stop & Shop — never happened. Instead, School Committee voted 4-2 to put off any action on the land, disappointing some resident who thought they would get to hear a final vote on the matter.

Was the vote in the best interest of Arlington schools? Probably. Was the motion the 'right' one for School Committee to have considered? No.

What has jammed School Committee's switchboard is the fact that it is not limiting itself to this single issue: is the 1.3 acre plot Stop & Shop wants actually surplus land.

Either it is or it is not. The extent of chromium contamination should not cloud this issue. How much money can be made by selling the parcel does not make the land surplus or not surplus.

The School Committee's job in this matter is to either make the land available, or pull it off the market. If the land is surplus, let town officials sell it at the proper time.

Committee members have complained about how Stop & Shop has taken valuable time away from other issues. It has, and there is no one to blame for this but the seven members on the School Committee. Many people in town would be more than pleased to see the Committee get out of the real estate business.

Committee member Marty Thrope — who once again boldly addressed the real issue in declaring his stance that the land is not surplus — equated Tuesday night's decision with letting the "elephant out of the living room."

The elephant will now loom in School Committee's backyard, threatening to barge inside at a whim, disrupting proceedings once again. It is too bad School Committee did not decide to either put the beast on the selling block, or put it to sleep.

Guest Column

Challenger

By Anthony L. Bernacchi

As I write, the tenth anniversary of the tragic explosion of the Space Shuttle Challenger on January 28, 1986, is only days away. One can hardly pick up a newspaper or turn on a television without seeing or hearing some reference to Sharon Christa McAuliffe, the teacher who was killed in the explosion, or to read some plan to memorialize her.

Perhaps the majority of school children today are too young to actually remember the Challenger tragedy, if they had even been born yet at all. With all this attention paid to McAuliffe, I fear that many children may assume that she was the commander or pilot of Mission 51-L. They may even think she was the first woman ever to fly on a space mission. Of course, she was actually a teacher/observer who had been preceded on space flights by several other women from both the U.S. and the U.S.S.R.

Furthermore, it may be somewhat overlooked in the current commemorations that McAuliffe was not the only person killed in the Challenger explosion. Six other brave people gave their lives that day for the sake of space exploration. I would like to tell you something about each of them.

Commander Francis R. "Dick" Scobee, age 46, was an aerospace engineer and Vietnam combat pilot. He was unaccustomed to the limelight and left it to his crewmates. He flew more than 6,500 hours in dozens of kinds of aircraft. A Star Trek: The Next Generation episode, "Tapestry," was originally supposed to make reference to a Scobee Hall in his honor, but that reference had to be cut because of time limitations.

CHALLENGER, see page 11A.

A tribute to the crew of the Challenger

The following is the reworking of a tribute to the men and women who died in the Challenger disaster.

These weeks, with their cold nights and far-shivering stars. We make plans, these weeks, buy seed catalogs, and count the days until spring. Control is what we yearn for always, and the power to look ahead somehow — to see what's coming next.

The illusion of control is one we cling to fixedly and lose hold of only rarely — when taking off in an airplane, for example:

As it taxis toward takeoff, a plane at first seems a rolling parlor. Folks read, and doze, and look out the window. Then it accelerates, and the trees and the asphalt blur to your sight and somewhere inside, all your instincts as a land animal cry out in disbelief that this metal craft, cumbersome and big-bellied as the Dodo, could ever lift or take flight.

But it does lift, and the blood billows in your ears. It banks, and there's your world sideways, a small sling of structures tossed like dice on a stretch of earth. Inside your head, things tilt. The tiny bubble in the carpenter's level of

LIFE AND ALL THAT

TERRY MAROTTA



your brain leans way over to one side, and a small pressing voice asks, "Now, Death? Today? This very minute?"

Then the plane straightens and the moment passes. With relief you turn back to your magazine. "Not yet," that small voice says at the back of your brain. Not this sight the last these eyes will behold.

We Americans especially think of our world as so cushioned, a place where even crisis holds itself politely in abeyance — 'til

prime time is past and it can be ushered gravely onto the Late News by anchors with careful hair. We think the world is our parlor.

But the world is no parlor, as any earthquake can testify. Some days in this quiet house, alone for hours, I grow watchful. Water in a bowl sloshes gently but endlessly; a light over the kitchen tables swings minutely, but without pause. Who is doing that? I want to ask. As if a force that pushes boulders up through ice can't tweak a lamp-chain if it wants to.

It's ten years this week since The Challenger exploded. No one who saw it do so can forget how it looked: the twisted double worm of smoke and the Shuttle gone — just gone from our sight.

We loved that teacher from New Hampshire. "It will be like taking a bus," she told friends in Concord, to reassure them. but it was never like taking a bus, as the career astronauts well knew. And she must have known it, too.

Perhaps what shocked us most when it blew was that we all watched it do so: One minute, seven hale and joshing Americans; the next, a blank sky. Just like that. The hand of fate. The hand of God.

At first, NASA held that they died at once; but further study

proved this false. They were awake and aware, it seems, until they hit the water. Much later, the black box retrieved, portions of their final moments leaked out to the world. One crew member cursed. One began a rapid series of orders. One said to another, perhaps quietly, perhaps even calmly, "Give me your hand."

They died different because they died all at once, whereas, except in war or catastrophe, most of us die by degrees — doing less, caring less, one by one cutting the slim silken cords that bind us to this life.

We owe God a death, as Shakespeare wrote. They paid theirs and fly free, beyond worry over plans, or control, or how many days must pass 'till a small planet tips and brings back what its creatures call spring.

"Give me your hand," one said, and the phrase is lovely, holding as it does all we can offer one another in love or friendship or at the hour of our death. All, and enough. May you sleep easy still, you seven heroes. You know things now that we only dream of.

e-mail address
tmarratta@interramp.com

Letters to the Editor

Mahon announces decision not to run

To the editor:

Several weeks ago, I took out papers to be a School Committee candidate. At the time, I felt I had available the time and energy needed to run a campaign, and hopefully, to serve as a committee member thereafter.

Since the holidays, I have taken a serious look at the time I want to spend with my children and the time I have for my volunteer activities, along with accepting a position as Deacon in my church, being awarded a contract I had bid on many months ago, running for the Democratic Town Committee, as well as continuing on with my activities on the local, state and federal level. After much thought, I realize I cannot run for School Committee this year as well as continue on with my previous commitments.

Therefore, I would like to state that I will not be returning my papers for School Committee this year. I am announcing this through The Advocate rather than by just missing the deadline, so that the incumbents as well as anyone else in the Town of Arlington who is interested in running for School Committee, will know my intentions.

I would like to thank the many people who have called or spoken with me personally and offered

their time and commitment. I am confident that in the near future, I will be looking toward serving the town in an elected position. Also, for the present, I will continue to work with and for the Town of Arlington as I have in the past, and hope to continue to serve my community whenever I can.

Diane Snell-Mahon
Howard Street

On-street parking regulations work

To the editor:

We have recently heard stories and seen pictures of streets in some communities where snow removal has been made extremely difficult by parked cars. This should convince us of the value of the restrictions regarding on street parking that we have in Arlington, and we should reject attempts to repeal them. They contribute to the quality of life in Arlington.

Harold Ramsey
Highland Street

Sidewalk cleanup needs improvement

To the editor:

I live in North Cambridge and enjoy walking up through East Arlington to Arlington Center often.

On my return home, I often stop in many of your stores, to pick up various items.

Today, I decided to walk on Massachusetts Avenue to Arlington Center. The sidewalks on both sides of the avenue were sheets of snow and ice. Many homeowners and storekeepers have worked hard to keep their walks safe and clean. But many more have done nothing.

With such a large elderly population in Arlington, residences and stores on the main streets should make an extra effort to clean their paths. If Arlington wants to encourage people to shop in their town, they need to improve sidewalk cleanup during the winter months.

P. Emsig
Foch Street
Cambridge

Government needs to keep walks shoveled

To the editor:

I am tired of reading, every year after snow storms, about the bad shoveling habits of private property owners. I am sure that there are places in town where walks and driveways are poorly shoveled, but every morning when I go to the bus stop at Rte. 2 and Pleasant Street, I can walk a quarter mile on a continuous sidewalk shoveled out by (private) abutters until I get to

Pleasant Street (Rte. 60). Then I have to walk over a hundred feet in the travel lane of a state highway, because no governmental authority seems willing to take responsibility for the sidewalk on the Rte. 2 bridge.

And if I decide that that's too hazardous and walk instead to the Mass. Avenue bus, the first (and often the only) unshoveled section of my walk is the frontage along the town-owned Menotomy Rocks Park. The drifts there are huge, but a little preventive care — a snow-fence installed in November — would cure the problem.

Help, help!

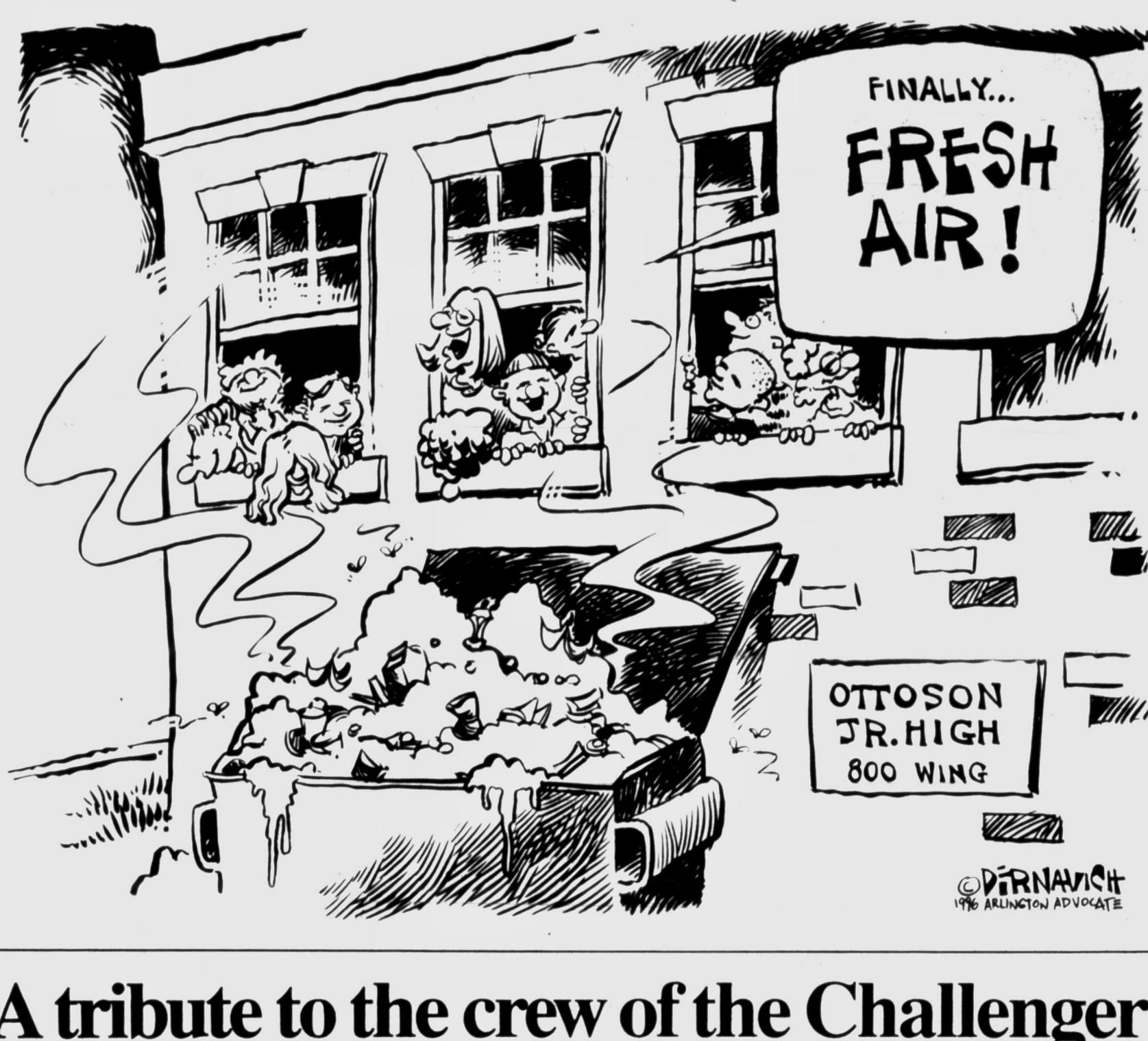
Marjorie B. Cohn
Jason Street

Get the job done: get rid of the snow & ice

To the editor:

I have a very serious complaint that I feel should get attention. On Tuesday, Jan. 16, I had a close call with a man driving a car and taking a wrong turn at the corner of Massachusetts Avenue and Mystic Street. I had the walk sign and as I stepped off a pile of ice and snow on that corner I thought — Oh! My life was almost over. I was so shook up! I always make sure those corners — all four of them — are safe before I start to walk, but, trying to

LETTERS, see page 11A.



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BENJAMIN HARRIS

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